

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference characters “R13” and “K”, which the Examiner indicates are not mentioned in the disclosure.

In response, it is noted that reference character “R13” is mentioned at least at page 13, line 12 of the specification. In addition, the specification has been amended at page 14, line 21 to specifically refer to the recording material P --moving in a direction indicated by the arrow K--. Accordingly, no amendments to the drawings are necessary. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added and that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of a minor informality noted by the Examiner. The specification has been amended to attend to any informalities, including the informality kindly identified by the Examiner. Again, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. It is also respectfully submitted that the objection to the disclosure has been overcome.

Claims Status

Claim 8 remains pending in the application. Claims 1 through 7 have been canceled. Claim 8 has been amended so as to be in independent form, to even more

succinctly define the invention, and/or to improve its form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claim 8 is merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. As above-noted, Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the claim has been overcome.

Section 102 Rejection

Claims 1 and 5 through 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,757,405 (Aita, et al.).

Section 103 Rejection

Claims 2 through 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aita, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,659,854 (Masuda, et al.).

The rationale underlying each of the foregoing art rejections is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Rejections

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and solely to expedite prosecution of the application, Claims 1 through 7 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections are moot and further comment thereon is not necessary.


Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the claims on file are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections, and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,


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